

holding off Sitting Bull  
the local sheriff with brandy  
Alexanders.  
That was what he told the conductor.

"Galway lives in Vermont."  
Something kept shoving him off the train  
into the rain.  
"I can write. I'm a writer."

2.

"Unlikely he's still there,"  
he said to the porter  
and parts of his novel fell  
off at each station  
from there to Burlingame  
Vt.

-- Ben Pleasants

Beverly Hills, California

written in a copy of William Carlos Williams and replaced  
on a bookstore shelf

not wanting to lose this poem  
I have to borrow a pen  
from a young girl  
on a bench over there  
and write it in a borrowed book.

Heritage

from my father I learned morality and innocence.  
from my mother  
feeling and innocence.  
I shaped them into this.

something vivid this way comes

like a fox in a raincoat  
making sly asides

to newborn pigeons  
egging them on  
yet never so sly